a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a locked content effective period thereof; and

a key receiver for receiving a key for unlocking the locked content.

3.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to a center when the present time falls within the effective period of time.

4.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A sales system comprising:

a terminal comprising:

a period reader reading an effective period stored on a self contained independent computer readable content medium indicating the effective period of time during which a content can be served by submitting a request to a center;

a present time generator for generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the effective period of time with the present time; and

a requestor submitting a request to a center for obtaining use of the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the effective period of time; and

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a key for unlocking the content when the present time falls within the effective period of time.

5.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the effective period of the content.

6.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said terminal further comprises a second comparator comparing an effective period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time is within the effective period of time.

8.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents; and

wherein said terminal further comprising:

a second comparator comparing the effective period of time with the serving period and

determining whether the serving period lies within the effective period of time.

9.   (SIX TIMES AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage medium which contains content, an effective period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the effective period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said effective period or falls outside the effective period; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the content when the present time falls within said effective period.

10.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage medium including both content and an effective period concerning the content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

reads the effective period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within the effective period or falls outside of said effective period; and

allows access to the content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said effective period.

11.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the effective period is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending time interval.

12.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads an effective period, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time;

judges that the present time falls within the effective period or falls outside of said effective period; and

a requestor for submitting a request for the content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said effective period, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

13.   (SIX TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads an effective period, stored on a self contained computer readable content medium indicating the effective period of time during which content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the effective period of time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for the content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the effective period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

14.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A sales system comprising:

a self contained independent computer readable content medium storing a locked content and an effective period for the locked content;

a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls within the effective period;

15.   (SIX TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading an effective period stored on a self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the effective period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the effective period of time; and

requests to a center for obtaining the content when the comparing determines that the present time falls within the effective period of time.

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16.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including an effective period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the effective period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a requestor for submitting a request when the effective period is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said effective period, the request made to a center for obtaining use of the content..

17.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A self contained independent computer readable storage medium comprising:

a content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;

period data stored with the content on the medium indicating an effective period of time during which the content can be accessed by the user;

a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the content by the user if a present date falls outside of the effective period of time indicated by the period data; and

a requesting unit for submitting a request when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the content, the request submitted to a center for obtaining use of the content.

18.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads an effective period, stored on a disk, indicating the effective period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the effective period; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said effective period.

19.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading an effective period stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating an effective period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the effective period; and

requesting to a center for obtaining use of content stored on the medium storing the effective period to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said effective period.

20.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading an effective period stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the effective period of time during which a content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the effective period of time with the present time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the effective period of time.

21.   (TWICE AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading an effective period stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the effective period of time during which a content stored directly on the content medium can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the effective period of time with the present time; and

a requesting unit requesting a service of the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the effective period of time.

22.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains content, an effective period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

reads the effective period directly from the storage medium;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said effective period or falls outside the effective period; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the content if the judging judges that the present time falls within said effective period.

23.   (TWICE AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage medium readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a content on the medium including an effective period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the effective period;

generates present time data indicating a present time; and

compares the effective period with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a requesting unit requesting service of the content when the effective period is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

24.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads an effective period stored on a disk, indicating the effective period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the effective period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the effective period; and

requests the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said effective period.

25.   (TWICE AMENDED) A method for ascertaining whether a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading an effective period stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating the effective period of time during which the computer readable storage